



September 21, 2009

C.M. Florence, AICP, Agent  
EXCELARON LLC  
Oasis Associates, Inc.  
3427 Miguelito Court  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**Subject:** Response to Additional information Request for Excelaron Project  
(DRC2009-00002)

**References:** Water Resources Impact Study for the Proposed Huasna Oil Field Project,  
Huasna Valley, California, Cleath-Harris Geologists, Inc., July 21, 2009

Dear Ms. Florence:

The County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building in their letter dated August 20, 2009 has requested additional information from the applicant. In items 2 and 3, the County requests (1) a water quality analysis by a qualified individual that includes TPH (hydrocarbon chain) and B-techs (I assume this means BTEX) panels to help determine the potential hazard of this hydrocarbon source (the existing "seep") and (2) that a county-approved hydrogeologist (1) determine the best available water wells to use for monitoring purposes of groundwater constituents (e.g., well is down-gradient from the proposed oil well locations, etc.), and (2) obtain water quality samples from these water wells that test for TPH (hydrocarbon chain) and B-techs panels to help determine the potential for hydrocarbons.

The "seep" near the proposed shipping site was sampled on September 3, 2009 for TPH (gasoline) and BTEX. The Creek Environmental Laboratories Chain of Custody and test results are attached to this letter. No TPH or BTEX were found in the water despite the fact that there was a layer of tar covering the water in this pond. The tar floating on the pond is clearly a much higher molecular weight hydrocarbon complex of organic compounds and does not contribute low weight hydrocarbons to the water. The electrical conductivity of the water based on field testing was 2500 micromhos per centimeter. This is much higher than the drinking water limit of 1500 micromhos per centimeter. The electrical conductivity of the water is a measure of the salinity of the water. Water with this level of salinity is characteristic of that found in low permeability shales. This level of salinity is not necessarily associated with oil bearing strata but oil bearing strata contain water that is high in salinity and often times much higher than found at this site. This level of salinity is caused because the water in the oil bearing strata have been confined and subject to dissolution of native salts within the oil-bearing beds. Any water quality monitoring should necessarily include this parameter.



As a certified hydrogeologist with Cleath-Harris Geologists, Inc., I recommend that, if monitoring of groundwater is required, the primary water well to use for monitoring purposes of groundwater constituents be located in the area to the southwest of the project property in Tim O'Leary Canyon. This is the area where water wells come closest to tapping the formations that will be drilled during the development of the oil wells, although none are known or expected to, tap the same geologic units. The suite of constituents to be tested should be determined when the oil and water chemistry of the fluids produced from the newly drilled oil wells are characterized. For background purposes, a general mineral and a TPH (diesel) can be tested at the selected monitored water well. The groundwater level should be measured in the monitored water well in order to detect any anomalies that could be related to increased recharge to tapped aquifers due to oil/water intrusion into potable aquifers.

Currently, we are discussing the possibility of sampling and testing the well that is closest to the project site with its property owner (APN 085-271-025). This well has a similar electrical conductivity level to the water in the oil seep pond. However, until such time as we can reach an agreement with this property owner no information is available. Additionally, we have sampled and tested another well slightly further to the west (APN 085-271-024). We were allowed to sample this other well and have had that well's water tested. The results of this other well's water test also is attached to this letter. As with the seep pond water, no TPH (gasoline) or BTEX were detected in the water well water.

As stated in our July 21, 2009 report, monitoring of groundwater to identify impacts due to the proposed project should conform to regulations established by the California Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources. The background water quality tests performed to date will need to be augmented once the oil wells are drilled and more definition of the oil bearing zones is obtained.

Sincerely,

CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.

Timothy S. Cleath, Certified Hydrogeologist #81

Attachments

C: K. Matlick, Excelaron LLC



141 Suburban Road, Suite C-5, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 phone (805) 545-9838 fax (805) 545-0107 [www.creeklabs.com](http://www.creeklabs.com) [sales@creeklabs.com](mailto:sales@creeklabs.com)

☐ Custom EDD

Comments: TAR ON WATER SURFACE

DATE/TIME

Sample Conditions: Temp: 24.9 Intact: Y/N Custody Sealed: Y/N



# CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES, INC.

A Minority-owned Business Enterprise

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Tim Cleath  
Cleath Harris Geologists, Inc.  
1390 Oceanaire Drive  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Log Number: 09-C12587  
Order: Q4628  
Project: Excelaron  
Received: 09/03/09  
Printed: 09/15/09

## REPORT OF ANALYTICAL RESULTS

Sample Description	Sampled By		Sampled		Matrix			
			Date	@ Time				
Oil Pond Water	Tim Cleath		09/03/09@10:40		Aqueous			
Analyte	Result	DLR	Dilution	Units	Method	Date	Date	Batch
			Factor			Analyzed	Prepared	
TPH as Gasoline	Not Detected	0.05	1	mg/L	EPA 8015/LUFT	09/14/09		1959
Benzene	Not Detected	0.5	1	ug/L	EPA 8260	09/11/09		1938
Toluene	Not Detected	0.5	1	ug/L	EPA 8260	09/11/09		1938
Ethylbenzene	Not Detected	0.5	1	ug/L	EPA 8260	09/11/09		1938
m,p-Xylene	Not Detected	0.5	1	ug/L	EPA 8260	09/11/09		1938
o-Xylene	Not Detected	0.5	1	ug/L	EPA 8260	09/11/09		1938

DLR = Detection Limit for Reporting. Results of "Not Detected" are below DLR.

CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES

Lab Director, Michael Ng



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Q4665

Custom EDD

Comments:

(Organization)

Intact: Y/ N Custody Sealed: Y/ N

REMARKS



# CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES, INC.

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Page 1

Tim Cleath  
Cleath Harris Geologists, Inc.  
1390 Oceanaire Drive  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405


Log Number: 09-CL2660  
Order: Q4665  
Received: 09/04/09  
Printed: 09/17/09

## REPORT OF ANALYTICAL RESULTS

Sample Description	Sampled By	Sampled Date @ Time		Matrix				
Shively Well	Tim Cleath	09/04/09@12:30		Drinking Water				
Analyte	Result	DLR	Dilution Factor	Units	Method	Date Analyzed	Date Prepared	Batch
TPH as Gasoline	Not Detected	0.05	1	mg/L	EPA 8015/LUFT	09/14/09		1959
Benzene	Not Detected	0.5	1	ug/L	EPA 8260	09/11/09		1938
Toluene	Not Detected	0.5	1	ug/L	EPA 8260	09/11/09		1938
Ethylbenzene	Not Detected	0.5	1	ug/L	EPA 8260	09/11/09		1938
m,p-Xylene	Not Detected	0.5	1	ug/L	EPA 8260	09/11/09		1938
o-Xylene	Not Detected	0.5	1	ug/L	EPA 8260	09/11/09		1938

DLR = Detection Limit for Reporting. Results of "Not Detected" are below DLR.

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